

Message Text

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11

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 PM-07 NSC-10 SS-15 RSC-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03 USIA-15 PRS-01

RSR-01 OMB-01 /104 W

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R 070755Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9188

CINCPAC

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

UNCLAS SINGAPORE 3083

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJ: SOVIET NAVAL VISITS AND SINGAPORE

THE GOS HAS RELEASED EXCERPTS FROM AN ADDRESS PRIME MINISTER LEE KUAN YEW GAVE ON AUGUST 4 TO THE COMMONWEALTH PRIME MINISTERS' MEETING IN OTTAWA. HIS REMARKS REGARDING SOVIET AND US NAVAL PRESENCE IN THE AREA MAY BE OF INTEREST TO ADDRESSEES. ""THE SOVIET UNION HAS A GROWING FLEET OF MODERN NAVAL VESSELS. NOTHING WE CAN SAY OR DO HERE IN OTTAWA CAN OR WILL EXCLUDE THE SOVIET NAVY FROM THE INDIAN OCEAN, THE STRAITS OF THE ARCHIPELAGO, INCLUDING THE STRAITS OF MALACCA, AND THE SOUTH CHINA SEA. NOR CAN THE JAPANESE PREVENT THEM FROM SAILING THROUGH THE INLAND SEA OF JAPAN UP TO VLADIVOSTOK. THESE ARE THE FACTS OF LIFE. AND LEST WE FORGET, THE NUCLEAR POWERED AIRCRAFT CARRIER, THE USS ENTERPRISE, SAILED THROUGH THE STRAITS OF MALACCA INTO THE BAY OF BENGAL AT THE TIME WHEN PAKISTANI TROOPS WERE RETREATING FROM THE INDIAN ARMED FORCES. "WHEN THE PRIME MINISTER OF AUSTRALIA SAID

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THAT BECASUE SINGAPORE HAS A LARGE ETHNIC CHINESE

POPULATION, THEREFORE THE SOVIET SHIPS COULD NOT
COME TO SINGAPORE, THE SOVIET UNION IMMEDIATELY
DIVERTED FOUR SOVIET TENDERS, FEEDER SHIPS, TO SINGA-
PORE FOR REPAIRS, TO SEE WHETHER WE WERE CHINESE
OR SINGAPOREANS. WE REPAIRED THEM.I WOULD ASK
HIM NOT TO PROVOKE THE SOVIETS, FOR THE NEXT TIME
THEY WILL SEND, NOT A FEEDER SHIP, BUT A MISSILE
DESTROYER OR EVEN A NUCLEAR VESSEL. THE FACT
IS, AS THE PRESIDENT OF TANZANIA HAS SAID, WHEN
ELEPHANTS FIGHT, THE GRASS SUFFERS."
CRONK

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